



DEBRA BOWEN

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Tangible Ballots Initiative Enters Circulation

Tangible Ballots. Direct Recording Electronic Devices. Statute.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for his measure.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponent and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Attorney General's official title and summary for the measure is as follows:

TANGIBLE BALLOTS. DIRECT RECORDING ELECTRONIC DEVICES. STATUTE. Changes the definition of "ballot" to exclude touchscreens and other ballots used with direct recording electronic devices. Expands definition of "ballot" to include physical objects that may be marked by voters' physical action and can be counted through use of ordinary physical senses. Does not prohibit use of legally approved voting methods, as long as those methods produce tangible physical objects to be used for vote counting and available for voter inspection prior to casting. Requires disabled voters to be provided means to inspect their ballots that accommodate their disabilities. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: One-time costs potentially in the tens of millions of dollars to replace or alter voting equipment. (Initiative 07-0065.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1297 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0065.

The proponent for this measure, Harry V. Lehmann, must collect signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to 5% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by April 24, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (415) 897-2121.

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